



California Assembly Bill 2193 requires maternal mental health screening

CA Assembly Bill (AB) 2193 requires all licensed health care practitioners who provide prenatal or postpartum care for a patient to screen or offer to screen mothers for maternal mental health conditions. The bill took effect July 1, 2019. Mental health concerns including conditions like depression, anxiety disorders, and postpartum psychosis are often missed or mistaken as “normal” within pregnancy and post-partum periods. Careful screening can identify those with mental health conditions and improve the outcome for at least two patients, if not the whole family.

Practitioners serving Aetna members can use the following screening tools:

- Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) is appropriate for [prenatal screening](#).
- The Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale can be used for [postnatal screening](#).

Scoring references are included for each, and recommendations are made below. However, the final determination for referral to treatment resources belongs to the screening/treating professional.

For prenatal screening with the PHQ-9, any score under 4 requires no immediate action. For a score of 5 to 14 it is recommended to refer the member to a behavioral health (BH) counselor via the Member Services number on their card (and asking for BH customer service). And for a score of 15 or over, refer directly to BH Condition Management Services by calling **1-800-424-4660**.

For postnatal screening with the Edinburgh Scale, any score from 7 to 13 warrants a referral to BH Customer Services. BH Customer Services can make referrals to BH providers. Any score of 14 or above suggests a referral directly to BH Condition Management Services by calling **1-800-424-4660**. **Note:** You should refer patients with scores 1 or higher on question #10 (self-harm) to BH Condition Management Services immediately for follow up.

These screening services are reimbursable. Submit your claim with the following billing combination: CPT codes 96127 or G0444 (brief emotional/behavioral assessment) in conjunction with diagnosis code Z13.31 (screening for depression).

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